

# LONE WOLF

AND

子狼  
孤

# CUB

VOLUME 3

THE FLUTE  
OF THE  
FALLEN TIGER

By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA



子連水狼

# LONE WOLF AND CUB



story  
**KAZUO KOIKE**  
art  
**GOSEKI KOJIMA**



**DARK HORSE MANGA™**

translation  
**DANA LEWIS**  
lettering & retouch  
**DIGITAL CHAMELEON**  
cover illustration  
**FRANK MILLER with LYNN VARLEY**

publisher  
**MIKE RICHARDSON**  
editor  
**MIKE HANSEN**  
assistant editor  
**TIM ERVIN**  
consulting editor  
**TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS**  
book design  
**DARIN FABBRICK**  
art director  
**MARK COX**

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THE FLUTE  
OF THE  
FALLEN TIGER

By KAZUO KOIKE  
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

子連れ狼



VOLUME

3

# A NOTE TO READERS

*Lone Wolf and Cub* is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

# LONE WOLF AND CUB



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*the fifteenth*

# Flute of the Fallen Tiger



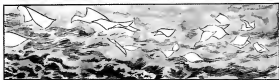
























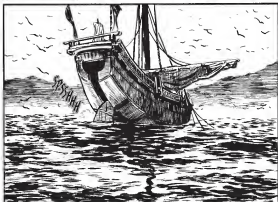














HEAVE HO!



THEY READ  
LIPS TO SEE  
WHAT THEIR  
OPPOSANTS  
ARE SAYING...

THEY  
CAN ONLY  
DO...



THAT'S WHY  
THEY THREW  
THE KIDGEM  
THROWING KNIFE  
AS WELL...

THEY DELIBERATELY  
SHOWED ME THEY COULD  
LIP-READ, REVEALING  
THEIR IDENTITY, AND  
STILL ASKED US TO  
JOIN THEM...

HEAVE HO,  
MY MATHES!

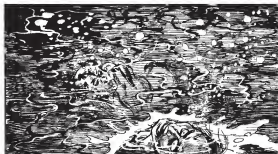


\*GO-HO (OFFICIAL BUSINESS)







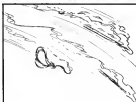






GO TO HELL  
#MAYBEAR!

BLAME YOU  
BASTARDS!!













GOOD FORTUNE AND ALL, TWISTED TOGETHER LIKE A KNOT...



I INVITED YOU WITH US FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, ONLY TO BRING YOU DISASTER FORMING ALL.

HOW SHALL YOU ESCAPE?



I'VE HEARD THE ASSASSIN'S SPIES OF THE SHOGUNRY ALSO TRANSPORT PRISONERS.



YOU THREW THE KUNE TO REVEAL YOUR ANCESTRAL TRAINING.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU HAD US JOIN YOU AFTER DELIBERATELY REVEALING YOUR IDENTITY.



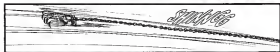
SO—  
YOU DID KNOW.



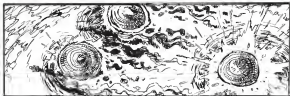
WE, TOO, HAVE HEARD—  
BRYAN ITTO, THE SHOGUN'S EXECUTIONER, NOW WANDERS THE WORLD AS THE ASSASSIN LOAN WOLF AND CUB.







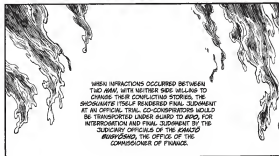
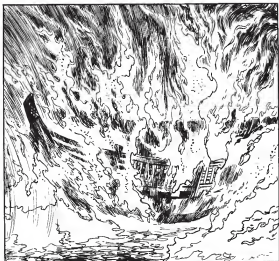






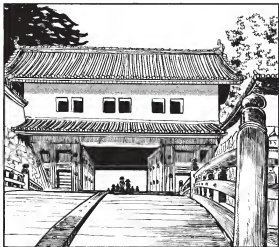






WHEN INFRACTIONS OCCURRED BETWEEN  
 TWO ARMY, WITH NEITHER SIDE WILLING TO  
 CHANGE THEIR CONFLICTING STORIES, THE  
 SHOGUNATE ITSELF RENDERED FINAL JUDGMENT  
 AT AN OFFICIAL TRIAL. CO-CONSPIRATORS WOULD  
 BE TRANSPORTED UNDER GUARD TO *AKO*, FOR  
 INTERROGATION AND FINAL JUDGMENT BY THE  
 JUDICIARY OFFICIALS OF THE *KAMATO*  
*BUFFOCHAKO*, THE OFFICE OF THE  
 COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE.





THE LOSING ARMY COULD FACE PERMANENT DISSOLUTION,  
AND THUS MANY A CONSPIRATOR NEVER REACHED JERO, ATTACKED AND KILLED  
EN ROUTE AS THE ARMY WITH THE WEAKER GAVE SOUGHT TO BURY THE TRUTH FOREVER,  
AND SO AN ADDITIONAL TASK FELL UPON THE ADDONOWAY ARMY CLAM-  
THE ARMED TRANSPORT OF SENSITIVE WITNESSES.



NO WONDER THOSE FELONS HURLED FOR ASSASSINATION  
CAME TO WELCOME THEIR ADDONOWAY ESCORTS AS IF THEY  
WERE ANGELS OF THE BODENSHYTH OF MERCY, JEROME FRANKO  
HERSELF AND NONE MORE SO THAN THE DEADLY  
ARWATY BROTHERS, INDIVIDUALLY.





THE RETURN JOURNEY  
WAS TO BE BY AN OFFICIAL SHIP  
PROCESSED FROM MATSUYAMA  
JAPAN, MAKING PORT IN OSAKA,  
AND FUKUYAMA, KIO.































ASSASSIN!  
LONE WOLF  
AND CUB!





*the sixteenth*

**Half Mat,  
One Mat,  
a Fistful  
of Rice**





"READ FOR SALE!"  
"HEADLESS SAKON"











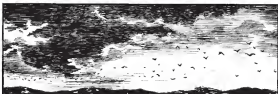




























IT HAD TO BE  
YOU, AND SO  
I LET THE  
WALLET FLY. I  
BET YOUR  
FORMERNESS.



THEY SAY SHINO  
SAKON FROM BUSH  
ORAYAMA IS A MIGHTY  
SWORDSMAN MASTER, A  
SWORDSMAN WITHOUT  
PEER IN THE FOUR  
CORNERS OF THE  
LAND. SO WHY--



WHY DID I BECOME  
A BUSHO ARROW,  
SELLING MY SAKURAI  
ARTS OF WAR, THAT  
ON SO BOLD ARROW,  
TO THE ARROWIST?

IS THAT  
ON THE TIP  
OF YOUR  
TONGUE?



WHAT DO  
YOU SUPPOSE  
ARROW IS, REALLY?

YOU CAN COME UP  
WITH JUSTIFICATIONS,  
SURE, BUT IT'S JUST  
A WAY TO KILL.















THE TOP SPINS AND  
STOPS YOU MAKE IT SPIN  
AGAIN... BUT DAMORO... OUR ROAD  
NEVER STOPS THE DAY WE  
STOP IS THE DAY WE  
ARE SPLIT ASUNDER...  
LIKE THIS TOP.



WE'RE  
LEAVING,  
DAMORO.

LIFE



WAIT?



HAVE YOU NO PITY FOR  
YOUR SOFT? DON'T YOU  
WANT HIM TO BE A STRONG,  
BEATLE, AFFRONT MAN,  
WITH COMPASSION FOR  
THE SORROWS OF THIS  
WORLD??





IT IS A PITY  
WE HAVE SOUGHT  
AND CHOSEN.  
FATHER AND SON  
TOGETHER! THERE  
IS NO GOING BACK,  
NO GOING  
AHEAD!

THE BLOOD  
THAT SPLATTERS  
MY BODY CAN BE  
CLEANSED, BUT THE  
BLOOD THAT STAINS  
MY SPIRIT CAN  
NEVER BE  
WASHED AWAY!



AND  
MORE  
QUEST-  
IONS!



RELIANCE  
FOR MONEY IS  
AND IN THE  
EYES OF THE  
WORLD!

NO MATTER  
WHAT YOUR GUEST,  
YOU STEAL THE LIVES OF  
OTHERS FOR YOUR OWN BODIES!  
I CANNOT FREEDOM YOUR  
ASSASSIN'S ROAD!

....



IT SEEMS  
IT'S TIME FOR  
MY ROAD  
TO DO SOME  
GOOD



ABANDON  
THE ASSASSIN'S  
ROAD!





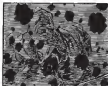








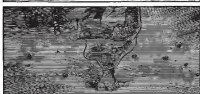


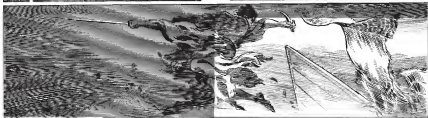
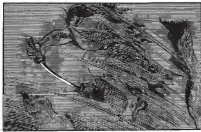




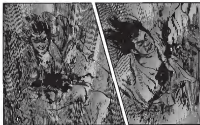


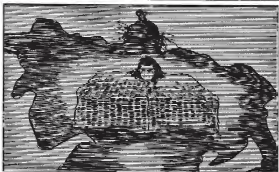




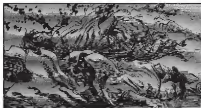
























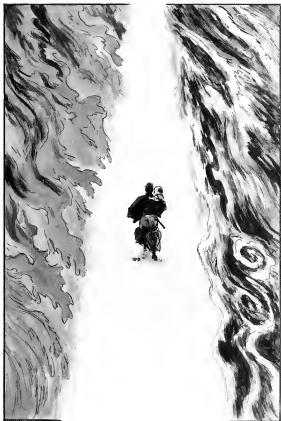




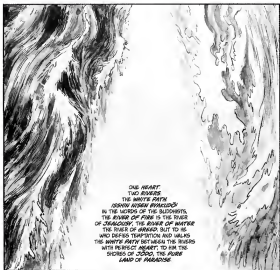
*the seventeenth*



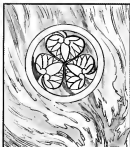
# **The White Path Between the Rivers**







ONE HEART  
TWO RIVERS  
THE WHITE PATH  
*JOHN JOHN EVANGELIO*  
IN THE WORDS OF THE BUDDHISTS,  
THE RIVER OF FIRE IS THE RIVER  
OF JEALOUSY, THE RIVER OF WATER  
THE RIVER OF GRIEF, BUT TO HE  
WHO DEFIES TEMPTATION AND WALKS  
THE WHITE PATH BETWEEN THE RIVERS  
WITH PERFECT HEART, TO HIM THE  
SHORES OF JORDAN, THE FINE  
LAND OF PARADISE









FOR  
SERVANT OF  
THAT HOLYWOOD  
CURET TROUSER  
FLUSH BECOMING ASH,  
I SHALL COVER  
YOU FOR GREAT  
GRANDMOTHER!

















FOR CENTURIES, THE **TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE** CONTROLLED THE **Daimyo** LORDS OF JAPAN'S UNIFY HIM WITH AN IRON FIST. THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF DISOBEDIENCE COULD COST A **Daimyo** HIS TITLE AND HIS LANDS; HIS FAMILIAR NAME COULD BE ABOLISHED; AND THE LORD HIMSELF BROUGHT TO **EDO CASTLE** FOR DEATH BY **SEPPUKU**. IN TIME, THREE SPECIAL AGENCIES AROSE TO ENFORCE THIS REIGN OF TERROR. FIRST, THE **WAKU** SPY NETWORK KNOWN AS THE **CHAMBERLAIN**, OR **SHOGUN WARDENS**, DEDICATED TO UNCOVERING EVIDENCE FOR BLACKMAILING AND DESTROYING TROUBLESCOME **MAFIA**. SECOND, THE **SHOGUN'S SECRET ASSASSINAGE**, CHARGED WITH KILLING ANY **MAFIA** OFFICIAL WHO OBSTRUCTED THE **SHOGUNATE'S** WILL. AND LAST, THE **KOBU GAKUSHI**, THE DESIGNATED SECOND AND FINAL EXECUTIONER AT A **Daimyo's** **SEPPUKU** DEATH.

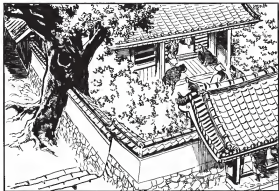
UNDER THE UNCOMPROMISING CODE OF **SEPPUKU**, THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR, IT WAS UNTHINKABLE FOR A **Daimyo's** RETAINER TO TURN HIS SWORD UPON HIS MASTER, EVEN TO END THE AGONY OF **SEPPUKU**. AND THUS THE **SHOGUN** APPOINTED HIS OWN CHOSEN **KOBU GAKUSHI** TO PERFORM THE FINAL CUT FOR A DISHONORED LORD. THIS EXECUTIONER WAS ALLOWED TO BEAR THE HOLYDICK GHOST OF THE **TOKUGAWA CLAN** ITSELF ON HIS ROBES OF OFFICE. SYMBOLICALLY, IT WAS THE **SHOGUN** HIMSELF, AND NO OTHER, WHO CUT OFF THE HEADS OF THE **Daimyo**.

**Daimyo** ITTO WAS THE CHOSEN MAN, THE **KOBU GAKUSHI**, SELECTED BY THE **SHOGUN** HIMSELF TO SERVE AS HIS EXECUTIONER IN THE HOLYDICK ROBES OF THE **TOKUGAWA CLAN**.













YOUR PREGNANCY WEARS  
ITS EARS IT IS A MOTHER'S FEARS  
AND CONCERNS FOR HER CHILD  
THAT SPIN THESE VAPORS.  
THINK NO MORE ABOUT IT.

YES,  
BLOODAND  
FORGIVE ME.  
BUT, BUT...



KNOWING?

IT'S  
NOT JUST  
A STRONG  
WOMAN LIKE  
YOU!



YE-YES,  
MY LORD



IF THE  
CHILD YOU BEAR  
SHOULD BE A BOY,  
WE WILL NAME  
HER JINSHOUZO.

....  
....



UNDAUNTED  
BY POVERTY,  
UNSPOILED BY  
WEALTH

IT IS THE NAME OF A MAN  
WHO CAN LIVE FORTHRIGHTLY  
IN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
FIVE REALMS OF HELL,  
HUMAN, BEAST, SLAUGHTER,  
AND HEAVEN, AND GAIN TRUE  
FREEDOM IN THE CYCLE OF  
INCARNATION.









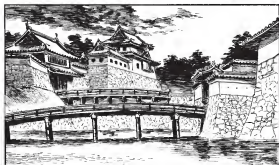
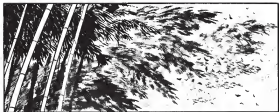






































TRAGIC...

....  
....



THIS MORNING THREE MEN COMMITTED SEPPUKU AT THE GATES OF THE *FARVED* CLAN.

I AM HERE BECAUSE OF THE *SHAMALUO* CONFESSION THEY LEFT BEHIND.

A *SHAMALUO*?  
TO WHAT...?



"TO AVENGE OUR LORD *ARISUYAMA* AND PLACATE HIS DEPARTED SOUL, WE THE UNDERDAEMED DO SEEK TO DESTROY UTTERLY THE *OSAWAY* FAMILY, THE CLAN OF THE *SHOGUNATE*'S EXECUTIONERS.

"KNOWING THAT IT WAS AN ACT OF SOVEREIGNTY TO SANCTION OUR LORD'S CLAN, WE DO NOT PRESUME TO TURN OUR VENGEANCE UPON OUR LORD THE *SHOGUN*. BUT WE DO WISH DEATH UPON *OSAWAY ITTOKU*, HE WHO WILLED THE SWORD THAT BEHEADED OUR LORD."





THREE SAMURAI  
HAD DENIED THIS  
CONFESSION WITH  
THEIR LIVES.

IN MY CAPACITY  
AS ~~SO~~-AMATEUR,  
I MUST RESPECT  
YOUR FAMILY TEAPLE.  
LORD OSAKI,  
LEAD US THERE!

WHAT  
IS  
THIS?



YOU BELIEVE  
THE WORDS OF THESE  
MEN WHO SLAUGHTERED  
MY FAMILY, MEN  
WHO DESERVE TO  
BE DRAWN AND  
QUARTERED FOR  
THEIR CRIMES?

YOU WOULD  
SEARCH THE FAMILY  
TEMPLE OF THE  
~~KOJI KATSUMASAKI~~  
HIMSELF?

THAT IS  
*NOT* WHAT  
I SAID!



I SAY ONLY THAT  
IF WE DO NOT MOVE  
QUICKLY TO CLOSE  
THIS AFFAIR,  
IT WILL DAMAGE  
THE AUTHORITY  
OF THE SHOGUNATE.

IT IS MY  
IMPERIAL DUTY  
AS INSPECTOR  
GENERAL!

....  
....



WE MUST  
DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS  
~~SAKAKAWA~~ IS GROUNDFLESS,  
AND PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP  
TO ANY SLURS ABOUT THE  
SHOGUNATE. WE SHALL  
ANNOUNCE THAT YOUR  
HONORED WIFE AND RETAINERS  
WERE FOLLOWS  
BY ILLNESS.

PLEASE  
UNDERSTAND THAT  
WE HAVE RUSHED  
HERE THIS MORNING  
TO ~~HELP~~ YOU IN  
YOUR ADVERSITY!

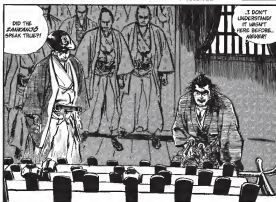
....  
....





BY...  
BY GOD...













SENSEI!

IF YOU  
KNOW HIM  
BEHIND THIS...

EVERYTHING  
HAPPY  
SENSEI!



HE.  
YOU AND  
DAMN  
IT?!

WHY WOULD  
THE HONOR OF JEDAMA  
MAN CUT THEIR  
STOMACHS FOR  
SOMETHING I CAN'T  
EVEN RESEMBLE?

BUT IF  
YOU ARRANGED  
IT ALL TO BRING  
ME DOWN, THEN  
IT FITS TOGETHER.  
ONLY TOO  
WELL!



I KNOW  
THE URA-KHADO  
RANGERS FOR THE  
POST OF JEDAMA  
KANSHEKUNAN.

THAT'S  
WHAT'S  
BEHIND  
IT!



REALLY?  
AND WHAT IS THIS  
URA-KHADO OF WHICH  
YOU SPEAK? YOU TALK  
AS THOUGH OUR  
HAPPY CLAN HAS  
TWO FACES.

DON'T  
ACT  
STUPID!



THEY  
ANTAGONISM,  
FORWARD AND  
AHEAD! THE  
SONS OF ANGER  
THAT ARE THE FURIOUS  
FACE, THE CHAOS-  
FACED!

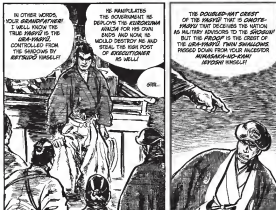
BUT THERE  
WAS ONE MORE CHILD-  
BORN BY OTHER NAME,  
REVEREND! HE IS THE  
SEA-FACED!



IN OTHER WORDS,  
YOUR GRANDFATHER!  
I WILL KNOW THE  
TRUE NAME! IS THE  
SEA-FACED!  
CONTROLLED FROM  
THE SHADOWS BY  
REVEREND HIMSELF!

HE MANIPULATES  
THE GOVERNMENT! HE  
DEPLOYS THE ANGERMAN  
ARMY FOR HIS OWN  
ENDS AND NOW HE  
WOULD DESTROY ME AND  
STEAL THE HIGH POST  
OF EXPOSITION!  
IS WELL!

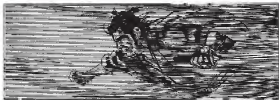
THE DOUBLED-HIT CREST  
OF THE NAME! THAT IS CHAOS-  
FACED! THAT DECEIVES THE NATION  
AS MILITARY ADVISORS TO THE SHADOW!  
BUT THE PROOF IS THE CREST  
OF THE SEA-FACED! FROM SHADOWS  
FROD DOWN FROM YOUR ANCESTOR  
AKASHAKA-NO-KAMI  
REVEREND HIMSELF!













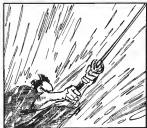














IDIOT! NEVER  
TAKE THE HIGH  
GUARD STANCE  
IN THE WATER!  
YOUR FORWARD  
Lunge IS  
USELESS!



THE SUBMERGED IRON  
BLADE NARROWS THE GAP  
BETWEEN YOU, STRONGER  
UP FROM THE WAVES! YOU  
WILL ALWAYS STRIKE  
TOO LATE, BLEED!



RATSORS  
OF THE DEE-  
VARKUT!





YOU USE EVERY  
TREASURE  
TO GAIN MORE  
POWER! I WILL  
NOT PERMIT  
IT!

I WILL *GRIM*  
YOU WITH THE  
HATED OF THE  
*GRIM* CLAN.  
KARRO!



*GRIM* ITTO! THE  
*SHOGUNATE* IS THE  
KARRO. THE KARRO  
IS THE *SHOGUNATE*!  
FORGET IT NOT!

STRUGGLE  
ALL YOU WANT  
YOUR DESTINY  
IS DECIDED!



FIGHT IN  
KARRO!



YOUR *SHOGUN* IS  
CHILD'S PLAY TO ME.  
*GRIM*! BUT WITH *GRIM*  
DEAD, THERE CAN BE NO  
VICTORY HERE.

THE WORK OF THE  
*SHOGUN* SHALL BE DONE  
LEGITIMATELY BY  
DEEDS OF THE  
*SHOGUN*!



COME  
BACK!



WASH YOUR  
MUCK AND  
WINE



YOU'LL PAY!  
I SWEAR  
I'LL MAKE  
YOU PAY!

THIS  
HATRED...  
MY FATHER!!



THE RIVER  
OF WATER,  
THE CHASE-  
YABU!!

THE RIVER  
OF FIRE, THE  
URA-YABU!!

USE ALL YOUR PLOTS AND  
TRICKERY AGAINST ME! I  
WILL STAY THE WHITE WAK!  
THOUGH I BE A GOSPEL,  
THOUGH I BE BUT A BURNED  
BRAND! I SHALL TRULY  
REVENGE!!



...FATHER

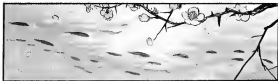
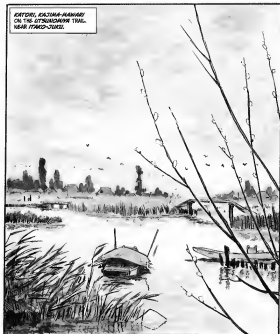


*the eighteenth*

# The Virgin and the Whore



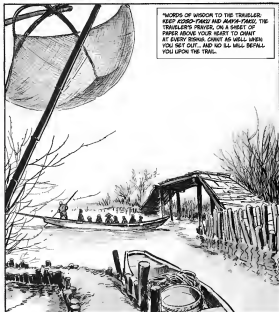
KAYOBI, KATANA-ANAKKI  
ON THE SITSUMONAKI TRAIL,  
NEAR ITAKO-CHUJI.









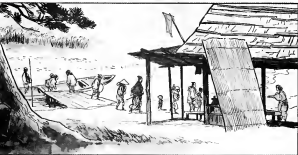


"WORDS OF WISDOM TO THE TRAVELER:  
KEEP KORO-YAKU! AND AMAYO-YAKU! THE  
TRAVELER'S PRAYER, ON A SHEET OF  
PAPER ABOVE YOUR HEART TO CHANT  
AT EVERY BISHU. CHANT AS WELL WHEN  
YOU GET OUT... AND NO IL WILL BEFALL  
YOU UPON THE TRAIL.

"WHEN RISING EARLY OR TRAVELING LATE,  
A SLICE OF RAW HAMMER IS GOOD TO CHEW."



"A FELLOW TRAVELER UPON THE ROAD  
IS A FRIEND FOR THEM, BUT NOT FOR  
LIFE: SAFER ALWAYS TO SLEEP ALONE!"



"WHEN ON A HORSE, WRITE 'SOUTHY' ON YOUR TRAIL.  
WRITE IT THIRCE, AND YOU'LL NEVER TUMBLE!"









"WHEN FEET GROW TIRED, RUB SALT ON YOUR SOLES AND HOLD THEM CLOSE TO A FIRE. REPEAT AFTER BATHS WITH SALT OR SOY SAUCE...EVEN SESAME OIL AS MEDICINE"

























IT'S  
WYNNER  
AMTZO, THE  
"PRINCESS  
SLAYER"



THEY SAID THERE  
WEREN'T ANYBODY BETTER  
AT JAWBREAKING DOWN  
THE PRICE OF JIGGS...

DEATH BY  
ASPHYXICATION  
SOMEONE BIT  
OFF HIS TONGUE,  
AND HE CHOKED  
ON THE  
BLOOD



WYNNER  
AMTZO WAS A  
LICENSED JIGGS  
HARD TO BELIEVE  
HE'D EVER LAY  
HANDS ON HIS OWN  
PERSONALITY.

OHAL-SHE  
MIGHT BEEN  
A HOT ONE FOR  
HER TO LOVE  
IT LIKE TWE.



FIND THE  
WYNNER  
SHE CAN'T HAVE  
GOTTEN AWAY

YES,  
SHE!



AND CONTACT  
THE JIGGS  
SYNDICATE? I NEED  
TO KNOW IF HE  
CAN ARREST HER  
OR NOT.









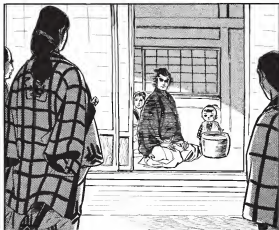




























WILL YOU PUT A SACRED DAY IN A  
SCHEDULE? WILL YOU PRAY TO IT  
EARTH AND DAY IN THE SHROUDS? THAT'S NOT FOR JAPANESE LIKE YOU! JUST  
BY CARRYING IT, YOU DISGRACE THE  
O-SAMURAI-SAMURAI'S PITY



IT'S LIKE THE BOSS  
SAYS! DON'T FORGET  
YOU'RE AN JAPANESE NOW  
WINNING BATTLE FIGHT  
FOR YOU!

BURN THE  
AUTHORITIES! BUT  
OUT OF JAPANESE  
BROTHERS I'LL GET  
YOUR HUNTER  
CHARGE DROPPED



BUT YOU'LL  
WORK YOUR ASS  
OFF MAKING UP  
FOR IT

NOW COME  
HERE!

....  
....

SHIT, GIRL!  
YOU BETTER  
DON'T GET  
IT!!





IF YOU  
DON'T HAND  
HER OVER,  
I—

ENOUGH!



I'VE STOOD ON THIS SWAY,  
EXPLAINING EVERYTHING,  
AND STILL YOU REFUSE?  
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU!

YOU RISK YOUR  
AND YOUR SON'S  
LIVES FOR AN ANIMAT?  
WHY...



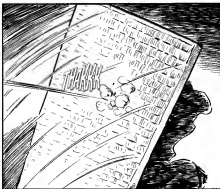
NOT AID-DEAD!  
NOT AID-DEAD!  
IT WAS A AID-DEAD-DEAD,  
FOR PARENT AND CHILD  
PARTED IN LIFE!

A LIVING MAN  
FOR A FAMILY NEVER TO  
MEET AGAIN! A PLEDGE TO NEVER  
DESARE. A PROMISE TO NEVER HATE  
THE PARENTS WHO WERE FORCED TO  
SELL HER—TO KEEP THEM ALWAYS IN  
HER HEART AND PRAYERS! HOW CAN  
WE WHO WALK THE SOFT PATHS AND  
THE FOUR LINES MAKE THIS  
FINAL PITY? THE PITY  
WE HAVE LOST?



ONLY WE WHO  
LIVE IN THE SHADOW  
OF ANIMATED  
CAN SAVE HER!

I HAVE SEEN  
THE ANIM THAT  
IS REASON ENOUGH  
NOT TO TURN  
AWAY!











IZ-SANDEMI-SAMA? YOU MAY LIVE BY THE SIX WAYS AND THE FOUR LIVES, BUT WE **ASHIMORI** ALSO HAVE FACE TO SAVE! SO... A PROPOSAL?

....  
....



AN **ANDEMI** BECOMES A TRUE **ANDEMI** PROSTITUTE WHEN SHE'S DEFLOWEDED BY HER FIRST **ANDEMI** IN OUR WORLD; WE CALL THAT **ANDEMI**, AND WE GET A **TRIP** ROOM FOR IT, TOO!



FOR DO THE **ANDEMI** HELP HER FULFILL THAT ONE DUTY... AND I'LL SET HER FREE!

UNACCEPT-  
ABLE!



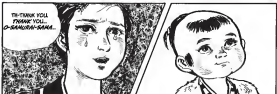
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER WAY!

WHYER FORFEIT AND THE SPANNING FORFEIT, THE PUNISHMENTS OF THE **ASHIMORI**. BUT SHE MUST BE...



SO BE IT, THEN I'LL TAKE HER PLACE.

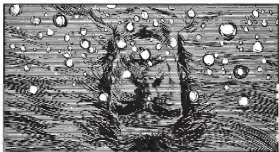
BUT... YOU'RE NOT...











THE WATER TORTURE WAS THE MOST COMMON OF ALL PUNISHMENTS FOR PROSTITUTES. THE TORTURE SYMBOLIZED REBIRTH, ADOPTING A NEW PERSONALITY, REPUDIATION TO HER WORK. FOR THIS REASON, THE TORTURE WOULD BEGIN AT THE ZODIAC HOUR OF THE PROSTITUTE'S BIRTH, AND CONTINUE THROUGH TWELVE CYCLES OF DUNING AND SUBMERSION UNTIL HER SIGN CAME UP AGAIN.











PAPA!

MOY



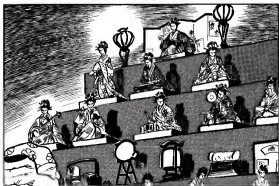
I SHOULDN'T...  
HOW COULD I...  
O-SAMURAI-SAMA...  
JINIC  
SE-TUNE



A FEW  
SAMURAI SO  
FEW OF THEM  
LEFT...

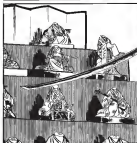


AND HE'S ONE OF TEN  
BOSS! HIS SACRED MORNS  
BOOB, BUT HIS SPIRIT'S  
AMERICAN! WE ALL GOT  
CHILD JUST WORKING  
HIM OVER.

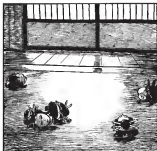
















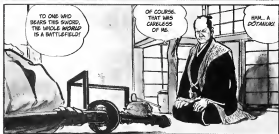




*the nineteenth*

# Close Quarters





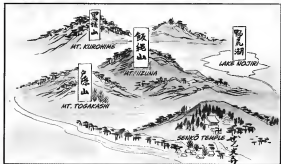
















WE ARE A  
REST-HOUSE  
FOR ABOUT  
A HUNDRED  
THOUSAND PEOPLE.



TWO YEARS AGO,  
WE WERE CRIPPLED  
BY A THIRTY-THOUSAND  
POD BUILT TO  
THE NEW RESIDENTS.



YET TODAY,  
WE HAVE THIRTY  
OUR OWNERS CHURNING  
WITH TREES OF  
THOUSANDS OF YEARS.



WE HAVE BEEN  
OUR OWN OWNERS THE  
MOUNTAIN RANGE BEHIND  
MOUNTAIN. WE HAVE  
BUILT OUR OWN FOREST  
BUILT OUR OWN OWNERS.



WE HAVE THE  
THREE, AND IT IS THE  
MOUNTAIN RANGE BEHIND  
MOUNTAIN. WE HAVE  
BUILT OUR OWN FOREST  
BUILT OUR OWN OWNERS.

THAT'S WHY WE ARE  
NO MORE TO TRANSPORT THE  
MOUNTAIN RANGE BEHIND  
MOUNTAIN. WE HAVE  
BUILT OUR OWN FOREST  
BUILT OUR OWN OWNERS.



"AND WHAT PERFECT TIMING FOR THE GREAT FIRES IN 1907! ONE SHOULD NOT REJOICE AT ANOTHER'S ADVERSITY. YET IT WAS DIVINE PROVIDENCE FOR OUR NAME OF COURSE. I HAD PREDICTED IT MIGHT HAPPEN, WITH EDDO GROWING THE WAY IT IS...



"OUR TIMBER REACHES THEM FASTER THAN KOSO, NODA OR KISAKI LUMBER. MUCH LESS ~~WED~~ CYPRESS! AND SINCE I INSISTED WE SELL DIRECT, INSTEAD OF USING NODA-KA, SUMIDA-KA AND THE OTHER LUMBER WHOLESALERS, WE UNDERSOLD THEM ALL! OF COURSE THERE WERE PROBLEMS, BUT NOW EVERYTHING RUNS SMOOTHLY...

"EXCEPT..."

THE PRECEPTS OF  
OUR ANX STRICTLY FORBID  
CUTTING DOWN THE  
KEKUMI FORESTS!!

PAYING DEBTS IS  
IMPORTANT, BUT HOW  
CAN WE PREY ON VICTIMS  
OF THE FIRES IN ADD  
TO SELL WOOD??

IT'S  
UNWORTHY  
OF SHAGRAM!

OUR ANCESTOR  
JONG YASUMASA  
FORBIDS FELLING THE  
FOREST TO PREVENT  
FLOODING!

ONE HEAVY RAIN AND  
THE RIVERS WILL OVERFLOW!  
KEKUMI ANX  
WILL BE DROWNED!

THE JOKER  
PATTENS HIS OWN  
POCKETS IN THE NAME  
OF DEBT RELIEF!

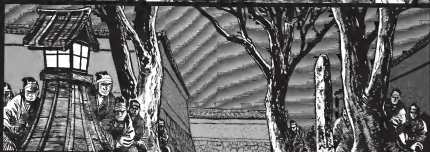
HE'D ABANDON  
A HUNDRED YEARS  
OF PEACE FOR  
SHORT-TERM  
PROFITS!

PUNISH HIM!

KILL  
THE  
SCOUNDREL!

YAH!!

"WITH THE STORIES AND SONGS,  
THAT'S IN FORGETTING THE PAST!  
AND THE PAST IS ALWAYS  
FORGETTING THE FUTURE!  
GIVE, PLEASE, DE HELP!"













"I ARRANGED TO LURE  
OUT THE DISSIDENTS WHO  
OPPOSED ME. BUT THERE  
WERE MANY MORE THAN  
I'D EXPECTED..







THE SCOTE / ALSO  
HIS BROTHER WENT  
TO CHASE OF WISE  
IT'S A TERRIFIC  
PLACE, A NATURAL FORT  
OVERLOOKING THE  
ENTIRE FOREST.



TO ME TRY TO FIND  
THEIR BY PROBABLY THEY'RE  
GONE TO USE THAT LANGUAGE  
AND TO NOT FROM THEY WILL  
LIVE THE HUNTER.

THEY ARE MY  
LARGEST CONCERN  
IF YOU TAKE OUT  
THEIR CLIMB  
OUR FASCINATING  
THEIR OUR WAY IS  
FASCINATING



THEY DO TRY TO TRY  
TO FIND A PROBABLY  
TO OUR JOURNAL, JAMES BROWNE  
AT HIS OLD BROTHER, THEY WILL  
BEHAVE AS, I WOULD BECAUSE  
OF THE PEOPLE, THEY DO HAVE  
JAMES BROWNE FOR  
THE / PROBABLY

THEY'RE FORTED  
WOODS. THEY'RE ALSO  
WOODS. THEY WILL BURN  
THE FOREST IN THEIR  
REMARKS IS BURNED  
HOUR WOODS.

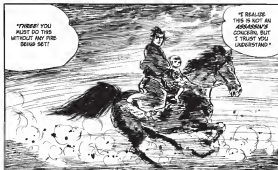


"YOU? KILL  
THEIR MESSENGER  
WHEN HE LEAVES  
FOR EDO?"



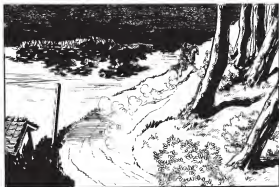
"FIND! KILL  
THEIR LEADER,  
KOSAMU  
CHIKOSU!"

"KOSAMU IS  
SKILLED IN THE  
TACITUM-AYU. HIS  
LEADERSHIP ALONE WELDS  
THESE NOHEADS  
TOGETHER. KILL HIM,  
AND THE REST  
FOLLOW."



"FIND! YOU  
MUST DO THIS  
WITHOUT ANY FURTHER  
SET!"

"HE REALISE  
THIS IS NOT AN  
ADVERSARY'S  
CONCERN, BUT  
I TRUST YOU  
UNDERSTAND."

















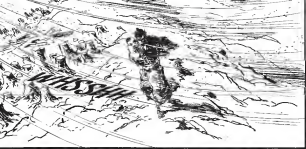








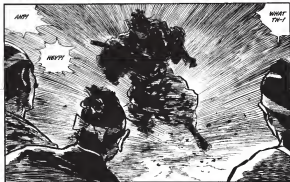












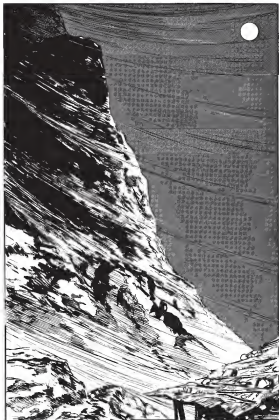


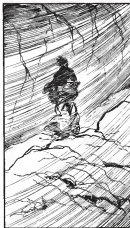
















YOU'RE  
A LACKEY OF  
THE JOKAWAY

ASSHOLE!  
LONG WOLF  
AND CUB!



LAUGHABLE!  
THIS IS A SAYSSEY-  
MO-CAN! NO ROOM  
TO MOVE!

ONE WHO  
LIVES BY THE  
SWORD SHOULD  
KNOW BETTER.



KNOWING  
THAT, I SEEK  
A DUEL.



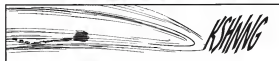
SO  
BE IT!



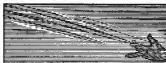
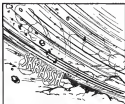
SAYSSEY-  
MO-CAN!

YET YOU  
CANNOT WIN ON  
THIS TERRAIN,  
NO MATTER HOW  
SKILLED.









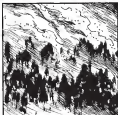












# GLOSSARY

## **annya**

A working prostitute. There was a thriving sex industry in Edo-period Japan, and scores of different words to describe the different varieties of sex workers.

## **Benten**

One of the seven gods and goddesses of good fortune popular among the common people, a folk version of Buddhist Bodhisattva, a manifestation of one aspect of the Buddha's nature. In this case, a Bodhisattva of mercy and compassion, usually depicted as female.

## **bōhachi, kutsuwa**

The Japanese *yakusa* specialize in different underworld activities, from gambling and protection rackets to prostitution. *Bōhachi* and *kutsuwa* were Edo-period terms for *yakusa* dealing in organized prostitution.

## **bugi**

The martial arts, the arts of war. Restricted to the samurai class under the Tokugawa shogunate's strict social controls.

## **daimyō**

A feudal lord.

## **dōtanuki**

A battle sword. Literally, "sword that cuts through trees."

## **Edo**

The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shogunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

## **go-yō**

Literally, "official business." Police and posse carried "*go-yō*" lanterns when searching for criminals, identifying themselves as law enforcers. A shouted "*Go-yō*" could be the Edo equivalent of "Halt! Police!" for a *meisaku*, or "Make way!" for an official procession.

## **han**

A feudal domain.

## **hanshi**

Samurai in the service of a *han*.

## **haori**

Half-coats.

## **hina**

Elaborate dolls, traditionally displayed in the spring for the Girl's Day festival.

## **honorifics**

Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Love Hina* and *Cat*:

*chaw* – for children, young women, and close friends



**akoto** – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures

**sama** – used for superiors

**san** – the most common, used among equals or near-equals

**sensei** – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians

## ihai

A Buddhist mortuary tablet. The death name of the deceased, given after they have passed away, is written on the tablet, which is kept at the family temple or altar. *Is-sha* were placed on the grave, *uchi-ihai* on household altars.

## jōdai

Castle warden. The ranking *has* official in charge of a *daimyō*'s castle when the *daimyō* was spending his obligatory years in *Edo*.

## kannenbutsu

Literally, “cold prayers.” There were many kinds of itinerant monks in *Edo*-period Japan, traveling the land as part of their religious discipline and relying on the handouts of the faithful. It was also a useful disguise for those with more than religion on their mind. *Kannenbutsu* were known for their penance in the chill of the coldest nights.

## kōgi kaishakunin

The shogun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shogun.

## koku

A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *has*'s wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity.

## meifumadō

The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation.

## metsuke

An inspector. A post combining the functions of chief of police and chief intelligence officer.

## ri

Old unit of measurement. Approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

## rōnin

A masterless samurai. Literally, “one adrift on the waves.” Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *has*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished *ronin* became “hired guns” for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

## ryō

A gold piece.

## ryū

Often translated as “school.” The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of the technique or set of techniques, and to any *deshi* students that sought to learn from the master. The largest schools had their own *dōjō* training centers and scores of students. An

effective swordsman had to study the different techniques of the various schools to know how to block them in combat. Many *ryū* also had a set of special, secret techniques that were only taught to school affiliates.

### **sakki**

The palpable desire to kill, directed at another person. Sometimes called blood lust. Based on the concept of *ki*, or energy, found in spiritual practices and Japanese martial arts like Aikido. These body energies can be felt beyond the physical self by the trained and self-aware.

### **seisatsu yodatsu**

Under the four-caste social system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, the samurai class had the unquestioned right to kill those in lower castes, often for the smallest of insults and infractions.

### **seppuku**

The right to kill oneself with honor to atone for failure, or to follow one's master into death. Only the samurai class was allowed this glorious but excruciating death. The abdomen was cut horizontally, followed by an upward cut to spill out the intestines. When possible, a *kashikawan* performed a beheading after the cut was made to shorten the agony.

### **shaba**

*Yakuza* divided the world between the *shima* ("island"), the world of the *yakuza*, and *shaba*, the normal world.

### **shima**

1. The zone of death.
2. See *shaba*.

### **sō-metsuke**

Another name for "3-metsuke." The senior law-enforcement officer of the shogunate, reporting directly to the *shō* senior councilors who advised the shogun.

### **tono**

Lord, *danshiō*. Sometimes used as a form of address, as in *tono-sama*.

### **yakuza**

Japan's criminal syndicates. In the Edo period, *yakuza* were a common part of the landscape, running houses of gambling and prostitution. As long as they did not overstep their bounds, they were tolerated by the authorities, a tradition little changed in modern Japan.

### **zankanjō**

A confession. Vendettas were an accepted form of vigilante justice in the Edo period. While the killers knew the penalty for their act was death, they could exonerate their reputations after death with a *zankanjō* explaining their actions.

### **zegen**

Procurer. Prostitution was legal in the Edo period, and the procurer was an essential link in the chain. Impoverished rural families would sell daughters to *zegen*, who sold them in turn to urban brothels.

# KAZUO KOIKE

Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Love Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine; produced movies; written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays; and mentored some of Japan's best manga talent.

*Love Wolf and Cub* was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kazure Okami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and reprinted worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryūichi Ikegami, was

produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Senjuku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Batman 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear: "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.



# GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-shibubai*, or “paper-play” narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-ben* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low-income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-ben* readers.

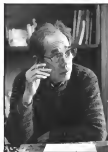
In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dogusaki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Komori*

*Okami* (*Love Wolf and Cub*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the “golden duo” and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.



# THE RONIN REPORT

*by Tim Ervin*

In our fast and chaotic modern world, it is of increasing importance for one to choose and stay on a path. But what we might consider to be a central goal these days, such as monetary success or weight loss, falls far short of what a samurai considered in his life's path. A samurai's way, the "Way of the Warrior," was deeply entrenched in mastery of weapons and strategic tactics, but beyond common warfare was a depth of culture and awareness — the need to practice refined arts and social customs, the ability to negotiate risky alliances, and an acute perception of danger. This is the way of bushido.

*Bushido*, which literally translated means "the way of the military man" (hence, the Way of the Warrior), was a chivalrous code of conduct that defined the true soul of a samurai more than the swords on his waist. At the heart of *bushido* is death — not the act of dying or the violence that leads to it, but the concept that a samurai is prepared for death, ready to lay down his life for his master at any and all times,

and to accept death gracefully. However, according to Miyamoto Musashi, a legendary samurai from the early 1600s who knew no equal in skill and concentration, the essence of the Way of the Warrior is “to believe that you cannot fail in doing anything.”

Miyamoto wrote that line in the introduction of his *Book of Five Rings*, which explored *heihō*, his own version of the Way of the Warrior. Miyamoto lived at a time when war was waning, and long, peaceful periods allowed him to adapt his passions to art and culture, but the warrior’s way was not always so refined. Approximately 700 years earlier, amidst furious battles against the indigenous Ainu peoples, the earliest samurai warriors began to evolve. As the samurai realized their power, the importance of a warrior’s skill became an honored element and a quasi-religion. In these early times, the samurai’s skills focused more on archery than swordplay, and samurai were judged upon their Way of the Horse and Bow or their Way of the Bow and Arrow, which signified a samurai’s social bearing and position as much as his ability on the field of battle. This designation was central to the separation of samurai as an elite social class. As time passed like wind over the bloody battle plains, the

role and importance of *bushido* to the warrior class increased with the importance of the samurai themselves. But eventually, as with Miyamoto, the time would come when the samurai became obsolete.

It is notable that the story of *Lone Wolf and Cub* is supposed to take place about twenty years after the death of Miyamoto Musashi. At this time, peace and control ruled the day, and samurai were forced to rethink their positions in the world. Many samurai settled into the arts, some writing the philosophy of *bushido* into books for future generations. Many samurai roamed across the landscape proving their mettle against other samurai, keeping the *bushido* in death a part of everyday life. And yet many other samurai learned to farm and ply other trades, all the while using lessons of *bushido* in their daily lives, and weaving the warrior arts into common life.

To learn the ways of *bushido* and bring it into your daily life, pick up *The Book of Five Rings* by Miyamoto Musashi, *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu, *Hagakure* by Tsunetomo Yamamoto, or *Code of the Samurai: A Modern Translation of the Bushido Shoshinsu* by Yuzan Daidoji and Thomas Cleary.

Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima's  
epic samurai adventure!

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*Lone Wolf and Cub* (*Kozure Ōkami* in Japan) is acknowledged worldwide for the brilliant writing of series creator Kazuo Koike and the groundbreaking cinematic visuals of the late Goseki Kojima. Creating unforgettable imagery of stark beauty, kinetic fury, and visceral thematic power, the epic samurai adventure has influenced a generation of visual storytellers both in Japan and in the West.

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